

Cary-Grove High School



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April 2, 2019

Dear Senior Parents:

It's amazing how quickly this school year is coming to an end. I feel incredibly fortunate to have made such wonderful memories with a senior class that undoubtedly has the leadership qualities and abilities necessary to be successful after high school. I can only imagine how you and your graduating senior must feel about what may now seem to be fleeting memories of their time here at CGHS. Hopefully, their fond memories will be the source of many conversations with their fellow classmates and possibly even their own children in the future. Speaking of memories, we have one momentous occasion yet to look forward to: the Commencement Exercise for the Class of 2019.

If you are a January or Haber Oaks grad and have chosen to not participate in the graduation ceremonies, please let Mrs. Claypool know by Friday May 3rd. You may pick up your diploma in the Principal's office Tuesday, May 21st. No diplomas will be mailed.

The graduation ceremony here is a remarkably respectful celebration of many years of successful accomplishments. Our school community prides itself on the decorum displayed by all attendees of our graduation ceremony. Virtually all of our teachers attend our Commencement, and we view the ceremony as a very formal recognition of all that we (parents, grandparents, community members, staff, and *especially* graduates) have worked so hard to attain. With this recognition comes a commitment to hold this event in proper esteem by following a protocol for something so worthy. As such, I would like to take an opportunity to formally state a few expectations for that celebratory occasion:

Students are expected to dress for a traditional, serious, and important occasion. Their behavior should mirror this as well. Girls should wear a dress, skirt or dress slacks with a blouse and dress shoes. Boys should wear a suit or dress slacks and dress shirt with a tie, and dress shoes and socks. Caps and gowns must be properly worn. Cutoffs, shorts, jeans, swimsuits, gym shoes, hiking boots, combat boots, bowling shoes, canvas shoes and flip-flops will *not* be permitted.

Obviously we want every student to participate in this celebration. However, student participation in the graduation ceremony is a privilege. We insist that our students who take part adhere to the aforementioned dress and behavior expectations. Unfortunately, if they choose to do otherwise, they are also choosing not to participate. I apologize for the harshness of the previous statements, but I would rather be very clear about expectations than have a student make a poor choice that ultimately results in a missed opportunity to participate in a wonderful memory. That stated, I am extremely confident that this senior class will uphold the standards set by their predecessors and simultaneously model for our juniors what it means to lead by example.

A Few Graduation Protocols for Spectators

- Please turn off all cell phones upon arrival. If you are planning to videotape, please locate a place in our bleachers where you might get your best view without blocking the view of others.
- **Please save your applause until the last graduate's name is formally read.** Unfortunately, cheering for *your* graduate immediately after the announcement of his or her name diminishes the opportunity for others to hear their loved one's name announced.

Please discuss commencement plans with your students and family. As a staff, we too want to enjoy the ceremony with this fantastic graduating class. As such, we are hoping there will be no disruptions during the program. However, as your host, we will attend to any situation that warrants our attention. While we will share this message prior to the beginning of our ceremony, we are sharing it with you now so that you might discuss our protocol with extended family members and students before our Commencement Exercise. With your help, we are confident graduation will be an event that leaves lifelong positive memories.

Important dates for seniors:

**Tuesday April 2 -
Friday April 26**

Senior Breakfast Ticket Sales

Senior Breakfast will take place at D'Andrea Banquet Hall in Crystal Lake immediately following graduation rehearsal on May 16th. Tickets are \$20.00 per person from April 2nd through April 26th. Tickets can be purchased online or in the principal's office by cash or check, payable to Cary-Grove High School. Any ticket purchased after the April 26th deadline will be \$40.

Online Payment Procedure: Go to the Cary-Grove website and click on For Parents, and then click on Online Payments (Revtrak). Next click on CG Senior Breakfast. You will then click on make a payment and this will allow you to purchase a ticket for \$20. Once you have purchased your ticket, **PRINT A RECEIPT** and bring it with you to graduation practice. This will be your ticket to get on the bus for senior breakfast.

Wednesday, April 10

During gym class, seniors will be completing a senior survey and receiving a class picture order form.

**Monday, April 22 thru
Friday, May 3**

Lottery Forms for 2 additional Auditorium Seating Graduation tickets (see below) will be available in Front office.

Wednesday, April 24

Cap and gown distribution - held in the front lobby during lunch periods

All seniors participating in the Commencement Exercise must wear the cap and gown offered by Jostens. **If you have not ordered yours yet, please call our Jostens representative, Todd Crandall, at 815-477-3588 TODAY!**

Friday, April 26

Deadline for Senior Breakfast \$20 Ticket Sales

Tickets will continue to be sold by Mrs. Claypool in the Principal's Office until **Friday May 10th**; however, tickets purchased after April 26th will cost \$40.

MONTH OF MAY

Seniors may return textbooks as soon as they no longer need them to Mrs. Marr in Room C6. All outstanding fees must be paid in full in the Principal's Office. An email will be sent in May giving details as to how to return or purchase chromebooks.

Friday, May 3

Last day to notify Principal's Office of non-participation in Graduation ceremony.

Tuesday, May 14

If your student fails a course required for graduation or does not take a required final exam, he or she will not be able to participate in our graduation ceremony. If this circumstance arises, you will be notified no later than 4 PM on Tuesday, May 14th.

Wednesday, May 15

Local Scholarship Awards Night, 7 PM in the Cary-Grove Auditorium

You will be notified if your student is receiving recognition this evening. Please notify Mrs. Hayes at ahayes@d155.org if your student has received a scholarship from their intended school and would like to have it added to our scrolling video of award recipients at Local Scholarship Awards Night. We will need a headshot photo in jpeg format along with the name of the accepted scholarship and school of choice.

Wednesday, May 15

The seniors' last full day of attendance will be Wednesday, May 15th.

Wednesday, May 15

Final Day for Book Return AND Fee Payment for Seniors

Seniors must have all textbooks returned and fees/fines paid by 3 PM on Wednesday, May 15th. Quarterly statements have been mailed home for those with outstanding balances. You may check Family Access online to be sure your account balance is zero. Please remind your senior that books should be turned in to Mrs. Marr in C6 as soon as they are no longer needed in order to avoid the line on May 16th. **Your student's participation in our Commencement Exercise may be in jeopardy if all of his or her textbooks have not been returned or if there are any outstanding fees/fines on your account.**

Thursday, May 16

Senior Class Picture

The Senior Class picture will be taken at 7:30 AM prior to Graduation practice. Order envelopes for the photos will be distributed to seniors on April 10th and are also available in the front office until 7:15 AM on May 16th. The completed order envelope along with the money must be turned into the photographer on the morning of May 16th.

Thursday, May 16

Graduation Practice

Graduation practice will follow immediately after the picture is taken. All seniors will be given their tickets at graduation practice.

Senior Breakfast

Senior Breakfast will follow graduation practice. Tickets are \$40 if purchased after April 26th. ***You must attend graduation practice to attend Senior Breakfast, and all students going to Senior Breakfast must be transported there by school bus.*** Although optional for seniors, Senior Breakfast is a tradition most enjoy. After graduation practice, students will board buses for D'Andrea's Banquet Hall in Crystal Lake; the buses will return the students to CGHS by noon. **If you purchased your ticket online, make sure to have the receipt with you to get on the bus.**

Saturday, May 18

Outdoor Graduation at 10:00 AM in the athletic stadium

We ask that immediate family sit in the home bleachers. All other guests are welcome to sit in the visitor bleachers or to find a place along the outside of the fence line of the track to view the ceremony. **In the interest of fairness to all, we will officially open the gates for seating at 8:30 AM. NO SEATING WILL BE HONORED PRIOR TO THIS TIME.** In the case of inclement weather, the exercises will be moved to the lower gymnasium (please see the details below).

Gymnasium Tickets for an Indoor Ceremony (in the event of inclement weather)

At graduation practice, seniors will each receive **four reserved gymnasium seat tickets** in the event that the ceremony needs to be held indoor due to inclement weather. These tickets may be used for gymnasium seating only. Please be advised that in order to accommodate all with gymnasium tickets, we will be tightly seated on what normally proves to be a hot and humid day.

Additional Seating in Auditorium (in the event of inclement weather)

Lottery forms for two additional graduation tickets for seating in the auditorium (simulcast) will be available in the main office from Monday, April 22 through Friday, May 3. Lottery winners will receive the extra tickets in addition to their 4 reserved gymnasium tickets at graduation practice. We are hopeful that we will be able to provide all applicants with at least two tickets. We will be happy to fill additional requests beyond these two tickets if additional seats are still available.

Handicapped Seating

Please call the Vice-Principal's Office at least two days before the ceremony if you will need handicapped seating for one or more of your ticket holders. We will be glad to arrange it for you.

Please join us after our Graduation Ceremony in our upper gym to meet and celebrate with **The Class of 2019! This is one last great photo opportunity!**

It has been a tradition for the senior class to design and wear a senior shirt to school during the last few days of the year. We are fully in favor of this tradition when done respectfully. T-shirts with inappropriate sayings or sayings that are designed with dual meanings disrupt the educational process here. Please help us to help your senior make an appropriate choice this year.

While all of the aforementioned information certainly seems overwhelming, we're providing it to you with the hope that clear directions and expectations will make this occasion truly memorable for all involved. Thank you in advance for your cooperation with our efforts to provide an outstanding ceremony for your student. I'm looking forward to celebrating the accomplishments of this senior class with you.

Sincerely,
Neil Lesinski
Principal